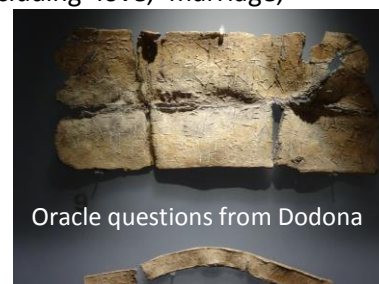


Gods and Goddesses

Pagan paths often refer generically to ‘the gods and goddesses’ but which ones and from which pantheon? There are literally 1000s of deities to choose from which may correspond to earthly and celestial phenomena or to human values, pastimes, and institutions, including love, marriage, hunting, war, and the arts. Normally they are more powerful than humans but often described in human terms. It was not surprising that when we visited the Greek Oracle of Dodona we found that many of the questions to the oracle were asking ‘which god/goddess do I seek help for ...’ An example was ‘Thrasymboulos would like to know which god he should indulge with a sacrifice in order for his eyes to be healed’.

Inevitably pagans are drawn to deities that impact on aspects of their lives and the community they live in, for example the range of gods of Wales include

Arawn	Welsh Celtic God of the Underworld, Terror, Revenge, and War
Arianrhod	Welsh Celtic Goddess of Air, Reincarnation, Full Moons, Karma, and Retribution
Amaethon	Welsh Celtic God of Husbandry, Agriculture, and Luck
Blodeuwedd	Welsh Celtic Goddess of Wisdom, Moon Mysteries, and Initiations.
Cerridwen	Welsh Celtic Goddess of the Moon, Poetry, Music, Luck, Earth, Death, Fertility,
Dewi	Welsh Celtic God of Dragons
Don	Welsh Celtic Goddess of the Heavens, Air, Sea, and the Moon.
Dylan	Welsh Celtic God of the SEA
Elaine	Welsh Celtic Maiden Goddess
Gwydion	Welsh Celtic God of Warriors and Magic
Gwynn Ap Nudd	Welsh Celtic God of the Underworld
Math Ap Mathowny	Welsh Celtic God of Magic, Sorcery, and Enchantment
Myrrdin	Welsh Celtic God of Druids, Magic, and Sorcery. Also known as Merlin



Oracle questions from Dodona

It was not surprising that people are drawn to the simplicity of the monotheistic religions.

Many pagans focus on one male and one female deity (eg. Sun God, Mother Earth) being the foundations of our existence as we live through the wheel of the year. In addition other ‘old gods’ are invoked at particular times of the year eg. Herne (Cernunnos, The Horned God, and Green Man) associated with Beltane, god of nature and all wild things and Brigid associated with Imbloc, Goddess of fire, fertility and the hearth. Many modern Pagans and Wiccans describe themselves as eclectic, which means they may honour a god of one tradition beside a goddess of another. At other times pagans often generally invoke ‘the gods’ or ‘the old gods’ when working with deities.

A Pagan’s relationship with gods and goddesses is one of ‘working with’ rather than a request for action. Symbolic offerings are often made as a way of showing appreciation for assistance in magical working or problem solving. So whatever your understanding of what gods and goddesses are and what they mean to you, it’s worth stepping back and thinking about which ones you might invoke and why.

Tony